

Mr. REED led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**WELCOMING REVEREND DR.
LESLIE CALLAHAN**

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Leslie D. Callahan to serve as our guest chaplain today. I have known Dr. Callahan since she was a toddler and am proud to say that she is the dedicated senior pastor of St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, its first female leader in 119 years.

Dr. Callahan is a religion scholar who received her bachelor of arts in religion from Harvard University/Radcliff College, a master of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York, and doctor of philosophy in religion from Princeton University.

A native of Gary, West Virginia, and resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dr. Callahan has been publicly preaching since the age of 19. She is noted for her dynamic preaching and teaching gifts and as a minister who plays a major role in shaping the future of the African American church. She is the mother of 2-month-old Annabelle, or Bella.

Reverend Callahan's character is captured in her favorite scripture from Psalm 27:4:

One thing I desired of the Lord, that I shall seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in God's temple.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MLR AND FRAUD

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Yesterday, we had an Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing on how we can combat waste, fraud, and abuse in our health care system. We heard from private sector representatives about some of the innovative ways that they prevent fraud before it happens. At the same time, Medicare loses billions of dollars annually because most fraud is only discovered after it has been perpetrated.

Now, under ObamaCare, we have a new medical loss ratio rule, or MLR,

that may actually create perverse incentives for private insurers to behave like Medicare. Some have suggested that the consumer protections provided by the MLR rule are too important to subject the rule to change in order to prevent fraud. Setting aside whether individuals or employers have received the benefit of the MLR rule, clearly the best way to save money is prevent it from being stolen in the first place, not chasing criminals after they have received and spent their illicit gains.

The flawed MLR rule is just another example of how ObamaCare's sloppy legislating and rulemaking has the potential to cost the American people dearly.

MORE MONEY FOR WAR?

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The same geniuses who involved the U.S. in a war against Libya, who knocked off the pro-U.S. Libyan Government, who created in Benghazi an extremist shooting gallery which has claimed four American lives including our Ambassador, who have not been held accountable or responsible for those events, who have opened the door for radical fundamentalists to run roughshod over Libya, these same experts are working out of the same playbook for Syria.

Assad was no angel, but he was not a significant threat to the U.S. Apparently, flush from success in Libya, the administration is preparing to ratchet up the war in Syria.

Why would Qatar, our partner in Libya, be supplying surface-to-air missiles to rebels in Syria without the support of this administration? NATO—meaning the U.S.—discusses putting missiles in Turkey, which would create a de facto no-fly zone over northwest Syria, expanding the war.

Is this why we need a tax increase? More money for more war? Really?

**CONGRATULATING RANDOLPH
HIGH SCHOOL CARDINALS**

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Randolph High School Cardinals on their victory in the New York State Class D title game on November 23, 2012, at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York. Led by Head Coach Pat Slater and the game's Most Valuable Player, Cody Oldro, the Cardinals won 28-7. It is with no small amount of pride that we recognize all of the players, cheerleaders, coaches, advisers, administrators, and, most importantly, the parents and the kids for their achievements and congratulate them on their third State championship since 2005.

The 2012 New York State Class D title game was also Coach Slater's

final game as head coach of the Cardinals, capping a 33-year career at the helm. His teams earned three State titles, eight Section Six championships, and a career record of 213 wins and 99 losses. Today, we honor Coach Slater for the positive impact he has had on the young people at Randolph for so many years.

CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, our national policy for transportation and budgetary commitment is a disgrace and an embarrassment. Our roads and bridges are a mess. Transportation for America says that we have 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in this Nation. We have over 2,000 structurally deficient bridges in New York State, and we have 99 structurally deficient bridges in my home community of western New York. Every second of every day, seven cars carrying our families drive on a bridge that is structurally deficient.

In the city of Buffalo, we are preparing to make a decision about the future of the elevated Skyway bridge, a roadway classified by transportation officials as being structurally deficient, fracture-critical, and functionally obsolete.

Federal investments should help communities make smart decisions and become more self-sufficient. Investing in smart infrastructure is not simply about tearing down our crumbling bridges; it's about rebuilding our Nation.

**CONGRATULATING COLORADO
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHAIRMAN BOB SCHAFFER ON
HIS RETIREMENT**

(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Today, I rise today to honor Colorado State Board of Education Chairman Bob Schaffer on his recent retirement.

Chairman Schaffer proudly served the State of Colorado and our country in this Chamber, representing Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. Throughout his career in Congress and on the State Board of Education, he has dedicated himself to improving the education of Colorado and this Nation's youth. He's a passionate advocate of education policies that reach all students in our Nation.

In addition to his work on the State board, Bob serves as the principal at Liberty Commons in Fort Collins, Colorado. Liberty is a public charter school and is consistently ranked among the State's top-performing schools.

Chairman Schaffer has been an advocate for State and local control over education. He promotes the value that